



EX PARTE OR LATE FILED

**"TWO GREAT RADIO STATIONS SERVING SOUTHEASTERN OHIO"**

March 30, 1999

The Honorable William Kennard  
Chairman, FCC  
445 12th Street, SW  
Washington, DC 20554

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Dear Mr. Kennard:

Federal Communications Commission  
Office of Secretary

Local radio works in Southeastern Ohio and has for 52 years. As the 2 year owner of a 1,000 watt AM radio station (WMOA) in Marietta, Ohio, I've learned that listeners rely on our station at all hours, and in all circumstances to supply them with valuable information. I also run a 3,000 watt FM station in McConnelsville, Ohio (WJAW), and we are the sounding board for many communities.

My concern comes information I've read about the FCC and possible reduced regulation on low power radio. These pirate radio signals could be detrimental to the main purpose for which we serve, and that is to provide ready access to information to our listeners. The possibility of interference alarms me and should be considered by the FCC.

Enclosed find a copy of a recent letter sent to our station that illustrates how folks rely on ready information. This valuable battery operated radio very easily could have been scrambled by an up-start pirate radio station and the information would have never reached the Stacys.

I am a small radio station in a small community, but I feel my concerns are big and warrant a revisiting of the merits of low power radio.

Sincerely,

John Wharff  
WMOA/WJAW

aa/csa

Enclosure

No. of Copies rec'd *2 copies*  
List ABCDE

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Gentlemen -

At a little before 8:00 on Thursday evening, January 14, we lost our power during the ice storm. An hour later, we lost our phone service. We live outside the Oak Grove Community on a farm and have Washington Electric Cooperative service. (It turned out we had 4 trees and a power pole snapped across our 3/4 mile driveway.)

As soon as we lost power, we got out our battery radio and turned straight to WMOA. That's where it was tuned until Saturday evening when power was restored to us.

This note is to thank you so much for the excellent and continuous coverage of weather and road conditions, but more than that, reports from utility companies on outage status. Even though it wasn't always good news, we knew what was going on. Our neighbors Dave and Lisa Mason also said they stayed tuned to your station.

Thanks again and keep up the great work!

Jamie & Susie  
Stacy

PHOTO OF  
Kristen Hoffman